AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A ~~The~~ data acquisition apparatus ~~described in claim 2~~, comprising multiple input modules having different measurement intervals, wherein said data acquisition apparatus is characterized in that a control means is provided for simultaneously driving each input modules at a desired measurement interval; a measurement start command transmission control means, which selectively sends measurement start commands to the individual input modules, is provided as a control means; and the measurement start command transmission control means is a memory, which stores in tabular format the input modules to which measurement start commands are to be sent in the measurement start command transmission timing.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The data acquisition apparatus described in ~~any of the claims 1 through~~ claim 3, characterized in that each input module has multiple measurement channels.

Claim 5 (Original): The data acquisition apparatus described in claim 4, characterized in that the measurement interval for each measurement channel in each input module differs based on the measurement start command.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The data acquisition apparatus described in claim [[1]] 3, characterized in that a timing circuit, which outputs a sampling timing signal of a prescribed interval based on a common measurement start command, is provided as a control means to each input module.

Claim 7 (Original): The data acquisition apparatus described in claim 6, characterized in that each input module has multiple measurement channels.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The data acquisition apparatus described in claim [[6]] 7, characterized in that the measurement interval for each measurement channel in each input module is different.